

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

BRITISH GUAYANA.

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REPORT

OF THE

**SURGEON GENERAL**

ON THE

**PUBLIC HOSPITAL**

OF

**DEMERARA AND ESSEQUEBO**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1878.**

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DEMERARA:  
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1879.







## PUBLIC HOSPITAL,

Georgetown, 14th January, 1879.

SIR,

I beg leave to lay before you for the information of His Excellency the Governor and Combined Court the following brief report:—

I have very little to add to the remarks made in my previous reports with regard to the general management of the Hospital, and its requirements.

The admissions were in 1878, 5,362, (3,515 males and 1,847 females); 391 above those of 1877, although the daily average number (389) was less than that of 1877 (444). This must be accounted for by the longer stay in hospital of the patients in 1877 than in 1878. The deaths were 655, (464 males and 191 females). This gives about twelve per cent. mortality upon admissions; a small per centage when the cases which are taken in are considered, and when there were 85 moribund patients admitted. Ulcers are still numerous; and I venture to state that one-tenth part of our labouring (agricultural) population is disabled by neglected ulcers of the lower extremities. Consumption I am sorry to say, is still very much on the increase. This malady as well as the numerous cases of Rheumatism and Dropsy, is due to the want of proper and sufficient food, coupled with the injurious effects of unhealthy abodes. I will take this opportunity of calling His Excellency's attention to the absolute necessity of having a proper dry air (Turkish) bath. In Europe every hospital is provided with such a bath, the benefit of which is shown in the great relief, if not cures, obtained principally by their use in chronic rheumatism and dropsical affections. A Turkish bath was built some years ago, but upon such a faulty plan that we have never been able to obtain more than 120 degrees of heat, when the lowest degree ought to be from 170 to 180. I must earnestly request His Excellency to give such instructions for the erection of such a bath, as would give us its beneficial effects as soon as possible. It is an object of the greatest importance for the welfare of those numerous cases of Dropsy and Rheumatism, and other diseases. The number of out-door patients is also gradually increasing, although many of those who present themselves for gratuitous relief are not prescribed for, and although many who get advice and medicines, are or ought to be, able to pay for such advice, it is very difficult to discriminate who are legitimately entitled to such relief. It will be seen by the annexed table that the amount for medicines far exceeds the sum voted for these articles. This excess is due entirely to the large number of out-door patients. The \$8,000 is far from being sufficient to meet the expense for medicines and surgical appliances. We will require at least \$10,000.

The amount for Wines and Spirits also greatly exceeds the sum voted for their supply. The nature of the cases which are admitted is such as to call for the prompt and liberal administration of stimulants. The sum \$3,000 voted is not adequate, and we ought to get at least \$4,000.

The supply of clothes is deficient, we can hardly keep up the necessary clothes which are required. This can scarcely be wondered at, when it is known that from Seventy to Eighty dollars are spent for plantain leaves alone. The amount for Clothing and Bedding ought to be not less than \$4,000.

The annexed table shows an excess of expenditure of \$683 92 over the amount voted. However this excess is more than covered by the amount received from the paying patients, which was \$1,972; and were we to add to this last sum \$1,617 25, amount due by estates for Coolies treated in hospital, the sum of \$2,905 33 would be to our credit.

The Port of Georgetown ought to be placed at the head of the list of Seaports, with



... to healthiness. The number of seamen who entered the Port of Georgetown during 1878 was 10,982. Of these 455 were admitted in the Seaman's Hospital, out of whom only four died; one from an accident living only a few hours after admission; three of chronic dysentery of long standing, a disease in no way connected with the climate. It is a remarkable fact that not a single death took place from illness, contracted in the colony.

I have written to the Colonial Civil Engineer, concerning the additions, alterations and repairs required at the Hospitals. The whole of the buildings require painting inside and outside.

I will conclude by earnestly calling upon His Excellency to endeavour to have erected, as soon as possible, a Turkish bath, which is greatly wanted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ET. A. MANGET,

Colonial Surgeon-General.

The Honourable the Government Secretary.

1878	Dietary.	Wines and Spirits.	Clothing, &c.	Fuel and Lights.	Medicines.	Washing, &c.	Furniture, &c.	Funerals.	Stationery.	Miscellaneous.	Officers and Servants
Whole Votes	\$28,000 00	\$3000 00	\$ 3,002 00	\$2,500 00	\$8,000 00	\$ 1,500 00	\$ 1,000 00	\$2300 00	\$ 400 00	\$2,000 00	\$15,000 00
Amts per month	2,333 33	250 00	250 00	208 33	666 66	125 00	83 33	191 66	33 33	166 66	1,250 00
January ...	1,640 23	249 70	582 04	162 13	7806 87	119 20	228 17	245 41	...	171 88	1,222 94
February ...	1,880 13	407 80	518 32	130 80	672 01	116 17	41 42	130 97	42 04	143 86	1,222 22
March ...	2,378 24	533 70	350 41	220 54	858 94	129 78	8 88	158 19	196 92	123 20	1,222 94
April ...	1,944 35	455 30	210 80	352 56	742 97	115 58	60 56	178 18	...	227 33	1,222 70
May ...	2,178 80	444 10	132 20	73 40	900 12	104 71	18 52	110 20	...	93 15	1,222 94
June ...	2,687 80	374 30	455 55	262 70	1,261 89	133 08	56 47	118 96	76 60	223 01	1,222 70
July ...	1,972 43	421 00	453 43	234 90	1,011 19	132 22	46 57	317 59	...	313 94	1,222 94
August ...	2,203 44	286 30	159 27	193 06	1,022 48	121 45	65 32	137 56	...	163 58	1,240 94
September ...	1,969 89	406 00	125 66	271 36	968 81	138 06	231 98	155 50	60 62	168 22	1,241 72
October ...	2,302 50	327 20	160 03	174 81	986 98	113 58	43 07	152 12	...	73 88	1,241 94
November ...	1,966 13	307 90	120 59	177 83	910 10	126 23	24 01	154 99	...	82 87	1,247 70
December ...	2,071 78	344 70	157 71	158 22	840 78	114 09	64 08	141 00	69 76	105 53	1,247 90
	24,195 72	4,558 00	3,446 01	2,412 31	10,991 14	1,464 15	892 05	2,000 67	445 94	1,890 45	14,779 56